



# Biannual Report Jan-July 2025

EDUCATION . EMPOWERMENT . EQUITY



Samaanta Foundation is a Nepal-based not-for-profit organisation that promotes equity and empowerment by providing quality higher education opportunities to meritorious public school graduates from underserved communities. The Foundation provides comprehensive Fellowships that cover tuition fees, accommodation, and related expenses (including uniform, lab, and exam fees) as well as mentorship and other extra-curricular support to ensure that every Fellow is equipped to succeed in their journey.

## Overview

We have added 19 new Fellows as part of the 14th Cohort at Samaanta Foundation. The 12th and the 13th Cohorts have just completed their final exams for grades 11 and 12 respectively. The Fellows have been organising and attending several workshops and programs over the past six months.

Our senior Fellows and alumni continue to inspire by paying it forward. They have set examples as role models for the juniors through their academic achievements, as leaders, and other volunteering efforts at Samaanta and beyond.

Our Fellows abroad are also doing exceptionally well in their academics and extracurricular activities, demonstrating their ability to thrive at the international level when provided with the right support and opportunities.



# Welcome to the 14th Cohort



*14th Cohort Fellows at the Welcome Program on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025*

We are thrilled to welcome 19 inspiring new Fellows to the 14th Cohort, our largest yet. This brings the total number of Fellows we have supported to 140, with 90 active Fellows.

We received 151 nominations from 118 public schools across 33 districts, including 20 new schools in 6 new districts. The five-month selection process included written essays, interviews, and home visits. Each Fellow was chosen for their academic excellence, leadership potential, and commitment to service.

This cohort represents 12 districts across Nepal, reflecting the growing reach of our work and the diversity of public school students. 13 of the 19 Fellows are girls, and 13 come from ethnic minority groups.

While we expanded outreach to Muslim girls and students with disabilities, we have more work to do and we remain committed to expanding inclusive access. We know many capable students could not be selected due to resource limitations. Their potential motivates us to keep growing the Fellowship.

## Samaanta Finds a New Home



“Samaanta's new space feels like a family hall where we work, relax, and learn together. With rooms for sessions, study, games, and quiet conversations, it's a place rich with meaningful experiences.”



**Sheerjana Praja**  
13th Cohort Fellow

We are thrilled to share that we have moved to a bigger and better office space in **Thapagaun, Kathmandu** after **8 years** in **Dillibazaar**. Our rapid expansion over the last few years meant that we had outgrown our previous office a few years ago. The new space will allow our Fellows to learn, collaborate, and grow together even more. This is also a step toward expanding our impact and creating more opportunities for our Fellows.

This milestone wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and well-wishers. Thank you for believing in our mission! At the same time, we would also like to thank King's College and Leapfrog Technology Inc., who regularly provide their spaces to us for our activities.



# Strengthening Impact Through Global Partnerships: JKCF x Samaanta

*Shrochis Karki's doctoral research, which would lead to the founding of Samaanta Foundation, was funded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the leading scholarship program in the US. In a full-circle moment, Samaanta is delighted to host two JKCF Scholars as interns this summer.*

## Demetrius Profic

Demetrius is a rising junior at Yale University, studying Political Science and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, with an advanced language certificate in Spanish. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, he is passionate about advocacy, social justice, and community engagement, with aspirations to pursue a career in law and public interest work.

At Samaanta, Demetrius is supporting program documentation and day-to-day coordination across teams, which will help strengthen our internal systems and processes.

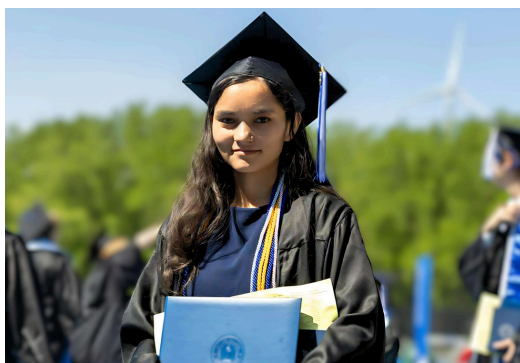


## Tiffany Myat San

Tiffany is a recent UCLA graduate with a degree in Neuroscience and a minor in Global Health, and an incoming medical student at Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University. Her journey has been shaped by a deep commitment to helping others, especially those in underserved communities, and she hopes to one day become a compassionate physician who makes a meaningful difference.

At Samaanta, Tiffany is working with several Fellows across the US to document their experiences. She is also helping with research and communications to amplify the voices and stories of our Fellows.

## Breaking Barriers, Building Dreams



**Sushmita Giri at her Graduation in Luther College, Ohio, USA**



*As I was taking my 10th grade exams in 2013, I thought my academic journey had ended there, and I hardly imagined even going to high school. Today, after graduating from Luther College in the U.S. with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Data Science, it feels like a dream beyond my imagination.*

*The opportunity to become a first-generation college graduate was made possible by the tremendous support from Samaanta Foundation, its continuous guidance, financial help, and mentorship. I am deeply grateful to Shrochis Sir and the entire Samaanta family for their unconditional support in my journey.*



6th cohort Fellow **Susmita Giri**, has completed her undergraduate in Economics and Data Science. She was also inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious academic honour society in the US, given to those who are excellent in liberal arts and show scholarly achievements and good character. She has also received two of the college's highest academic honours: the Schultz Family Scholarship and a nomination to Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honour society in economics. She is now seeking meaningful employment in data analysis and other related fields, ideally in the US.

Originally from Sindhupalchowk, Susmita moved to Kathmandu with Samaanta Foundation. With Samaanta's mentorship and guidance, she secured a full scholarship to attend the United World College (UWC) Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2019 and later Luther College in the US in 2021.

# Leading with Purpose



*Mamita Giri after receiving the “Emerging Leader” Award.*

Mamita Giri, Sabita Giri, Chahana Tamang, and Rabeena Chalise from the 12th Cohort completed a year-long WomenLEAD Leadership Training Program in 2025. The course provides young women with intensive leadership training, skills-building opportunities, mentoring, a peer-support network, and university preparation.



*Rabina Chalise, Mamita Giri, Sabita Giri, and Chahana Tamang during their WomenLEAD Graduation.*

In the LEAD Course, young women explore their own identities as leaders and change-makers.

Each year, WomenLEAD selects and trains 30 young women, who in turn train another 450 students in their schools and communities using the tools provided through the School Leadership Program.

This year, Mamita Giri received WomenLEAD's prestigious Emerging Leader Award. So far, 21 Fellows have completed WomenLEAD Fellowships.



## AakarNepal

## Impact Leaders Fellowship Program

17 Fellows have been enrolled in Aakar Nepal Impact Leaders Fellowship Program for the next three months. Aakar Nepal is a Pestalozzi Development Fund-supported project aimed towards building interest and confidence among Nepali youth to design and implement solutions to problems in their community. A professional mentor is assigned to each participant for the duration of the project and Fellows conduct programs in their community. This is the third year Samaanta Fellows have been a part of Aakar Nepal's summer program.

## Gyanmaya's Graduation

11th Cohort Fellow Gyanmaya Tamang has completed her IB Diploma in May 2025 with excellent results. She has been awarded multiple full scholarships to pursue undergraduate degrees, and she has chosen to attend St. Olaf in Minnesota, USA, where she will join our Fellow Asmita Mandal.





# Annual Fellowship Field Trip



*Fellows at the Mohini Jharana in Makwanpur*

The Bachelor's Fellows embarked on a much-anticipated annual educational trip, an experience designed to blend learning, exploration, and community immersion. They traveled to Chitlang, a scenic semi-rural village just 30 kilometres from the chaos of Kathmandu.

During their overnight stay, the Fellows walked through terraced fields and engaged with local communities. They visited Indrasarovar, Nepal's largest artificial lake, and hiked to Mohini Jharana, a waterfall amidst the hills. Beyond the breathtaking views, the trip offered moments of reflection and connection among the Fellows making it a truly memorable and transformative experience for all.

## From Fellows to Leaders: Resident Advisor and Data Management Intern



### *Deepa Amgai*

Deepa Amgai, a 10th Cohort Fellow and BBA student at Thames International College, is Samaanta's first female Resident Advisor. In this role, she supports the well-being of Fellows, strengthens coordination between Fellows and staff, and helps create a positive and inclusive living environment. Outside of Samaanta, she has served as a judge and expert manager at the Hult Prize competition, hosted events, and is currently co-developing an e-booklet to help BBA students understand concepts in Human Resource and Strategy Management.

### *Yubraj Ale Magar*

Yubraj Ale Magar, also a 10th Cohort Fellow and BBA student at Thames, serves as the first Resident Advisor for the boys' hostel. He leads weekly check-ins, addresses concerns, and promotes peer learning and collaboration. His work builds a strong sense of community among Fellows and reflects Samaanta's value of paying it forward. Beyond Samaanta, Yubraj is an active member of his college's Marketing Learning Group and volunteers with Shiksha Nepal to support their "Ek Kitab" campaign that promotes book access for children.



### *Shobha Adhikari*

Shobha Adhikari, a 10th Cohort Fellow and Computer Science student at King's College, is Samaanta's first Data Management Intern. She supports the transition and improvement of internal data and recordkeeping systems, ensuring that Fellow information is well-organised, accurate, and easy to access. Shobha is passionate about creating structure through data. She has also worked as a research assistant on a study about volunteering among Nepali university students and freelancing as a voiceover artist.

# A Journey in Progress: The 12th Cohort

The 14 Fellows from our 12th Cohort have completed their higher secondary education and are now being assessed for continuation into the Bachelor-level Fellowship.



*12<sup>th</sup> cohort Fellows*

This cohort has been nothing short of exceptional, both academically and otherwise. In their 11th grade finals, the Fellows from the management faculty secured an impressive average 3.6 GPA, while Fellows in the science stream scored 3.45. These numbers reflect their unwavering dedication to their studies amidst personal, social, and structural challenges. We anticipate equally inspiring outcomes in their finals.

They have led several in-house programs as a cohort and have engaged through community engagement, peer mentorship, and have consistently embodied Samaanta's core values of service, leadership, and paying it forward. Continuation into the next phase of the Fellowship will be based on academic standing, values alignment, and leadership potential.

## Fellow Highlights

Our Fellows continue to embody Samaanta's values through their academic achievements, leadership, and service to the community:

- **Puskar Bharati** (10th Cohort) volunteered with the Traffic Police and led a team of volunteers for 30 hours as part of his community project, showing strong civic engagement and discipline. He is also actively involved in the Book Free Friday program run in collaboration with the All In Foundation, where he teaches school children in Kathmandu Metropolitan City.
- **Nabindra Chaurel** (8th Cohort) has been contributing to the Writing Centre at Thames College for the past two years. He regularly facilitates writing workshops and academic sessions on citation, and research paper structure for his peers.
- **Sushan Nepali, Asmita Magar, Brijlal Mahara Chamar, and Basanta Chand** from the 13th Cohort secured spots on the toppers' list in their Grade 11 final exams at V.S. Niketan College—reflecting their academic dedication and the effectiveness of consistent support.
- **Manoj Bisunke**, Samaanta's first Fellow in Civil Engineering, secured an impressive 3.5 GPA in his third semester, an inspiring achievement in a challenging discipline.

*Thank You*